



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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LAWRENCE MAN CHARGED WITH
ILLEGALLY RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE--United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that Sergio Escobar-Montafar, age 39, of Lawrence, Massachusetts has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Concord, New Hampshire for illegally re-entering the United States after having previously been deported.

Mr. Escobar-Montafar, a citizen of Guatemala, was arraigned today in United States District Court. He is being detained pending his trial which is scheduled for December 2, 2003, before Judge Steven McAuliffe.

The defendant faces a maximum sentence of twenty (20) years imprisonment and a two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) fine.

The indictment was the result of an investigation by the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Salem, New Hampshire Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Zuckerman.

Please note that a criminal indictment is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.